

## AUTOMATIC ALLOCATION OF SUBNET IDENTIFIERS IN A NETWORK

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### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A network (100) of machines and method (200) for allocating a unique subnet identifier to a subnet in the network (100) having multiple subnets (155,160,165,170,175,190) and a plurality of associated routers (110, 130, 140, 150, 105). The unique subnet identifier provides part of an address of the subnet that is coupled to a router interface and is allocated by firstly determining that a subnet identifier for one of said subnets (155,160,165,170,175,190) is required. A step of allocating automatically a unique subnet identifier to the router interface is then effected, wherein the unique subnet identifier is determined to be unique by said network. A configuring step then configures the subnet to be addressed by said network 100 by using an address based at least partially on said unique subnet identifier.

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TOP SECRET//COMINT